GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Services – Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Department – Certain irregularities in the administration and in discharging official duties against Sri S. Babu, Forest Section Officer (Retd.), Onipenta Forest Range, Mydukur Mandal, YSR Kadapa District - Surprise check conducted on 29.01.2021 – Departmental Proceedings under Rule 20 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1991 - Articles of Charges - Issued.

ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SEC.IV) DEPARTMENT

G.O.RT.No. 41 **Dated: 17-04-2025**

1)G.O.Rt.No.34, Environment, Forests, Science & Technology (Sec.IV) Department, dated 17.04.2025.
2)G.O.Ms.No.32,Environment, Forests, Science & Technology (Sec.IV) Department, dated 17.04.2025.

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ORDER:

In pursuance of the sanction accorded by the Government under sub-clause (i) of clause (b) of sub-rule (2) of Rule 9 of the A.P.Revised Pension Rules, 1980 for instituting departmental proceedings against Sri S. Babu, Forest Section Officer (Retd.), Onipenta Forest Range, Mydukur Mandal, YSR Kadapa District (Retired on 31.05.2019), formerly Onipenta Forest Range, Mydukur Mandal, YSR Kadapa District in the G.O. 2nd readabove, it is proposed to hold an inquiry against Sri S. Babu, Forest Section Officer (Retd.), Onipenta Forest Range, Mydukur Mandal, YSR Kadapa District in accordance with the procedure laid down in Rule-20 of the A.P. Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1991.

2. The substance of the imputations of misconduct or misbehavior in respect of which the inquiry is proposed to be held is set-out in the enclosed statement of articles of charges (Annexure-I). A statement of imputations of misconduct or misbehavior in support of each article of charge is enclosed(Annexure-II). A list of witnesses by whom, and a list of documents by which, the articles of charges are proposed to be sustained are also enclosed (Annexure-III and IV).

3. Sri S. Babu, Forest Section Officer (Retd.), Onipenta Forest Range, Mydukur Mandal, YSR Kadapa District, is directed to submit a written statement of his defense within (10) days from the date of receipt of this order.

4. Sri S. Babu, Forest Section Officer (Retd.), Onipenta Forest Range, Mydukur Mandal, YSR Kadapa District, is informed that the inquiry will be held only in respect of those Articles of Charges as are not admitted. He should, therefore, specifically admit or deny each Article of Charge.

5. Sri S. Babu, Forest Section Officer (Retd.), Onipenta Forest Range, Mydukur Mandal, YSR Kadapa District, is further informed that if he does not submit his written statement of defense within the time specified in Para-3 above, further action will be taken based on the material available.

P.T.O.

6. Sri S. Babu, Forest Section Officer (Retd.), Onipenta Forest Range, Mydukur Mandal, YSR Kadapa District, is informed that under Rule-24 of the A.P. Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964, no Government Servant shall bring or attempt to bring any political or outside influence to bear upon any superior authority to further his interest in respect of matters pertaining to his service under the Government. If any representation is received on his behalf from another person in respect of any matter dealt within these proceedings, it will be presumed that Sri S. Babu, Forest Section Officer (Retd.), Onipenta Forest Range, Mydukur Mandal, YSR Kadapa District is aware of such a representation and that it has been made at his instance and action will be taken against him for violation of Rule-24 of the A.P. Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

7. The receipt of this order may be acknowledged.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

G.ANANTHA RAMU
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
Sri S. Babu, Forest Section Officer (Retd.), Onipenta Forest Range, Mydukur Mandal, YSR Kadapa District through the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Mangalagiri.

Copy to:

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Mangalagiri. (He is requested to serve the order on the individual, obtain her dated acknowledgment on the duplicate copy and resubmit the same to Government for record).
The Director General, Anti-Corruption Bureau, A.P., Vijayawada.
The Secretary to A.P. Vigilance Commission.
SF/SC (Computer No.2613550).

//FORWARDED ::BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE-I

STATEMENT OF ARTICLE OF CHARGE FRAMED IN RC.NO.8/DES-TCD/2021AGAINST SRI S.BABU, 65 YEARS, FORMERLY WORKED AS FOREST SECTION OFFICER IN MYDUKUR CHECK POST, ONIPENTA FOREST RANGE, MYDUKUR MANDAL, YSR KADAPA DISTRICT.

Sri S.Babu, 65 years, Formerly Worked as Forest Section Officer in Mydukur Check Post, Onipenta Forest Range, Mydukur Mandal, YSR Kadapa District(here-in-after referred to as Government Servant) while functioning as such during the period between from 05.08.2009 to 06.06.2017(date of Surprise check) committed grave misconduct in as much as.

Charge-1:

That the Government Servant Sri S.Babu, Formerly worked as Forest Section Officer in Mydukur Check Post, Onipenta Forest Range, Mydukur Mandal, YSR Kadapa District, is held responsible for the non-availability of 12 red sander logs weighing about 186KGs in 01 OR case.

That the Government Servant Sri S.Babu, Formerly worked as Forest Section Officer in Mydukur Check Post, Onipenta Forest Range, Mydukur Mandal, YSR Kadapa District, by his above-mentioned acts exhibited a lack of integrity, devotion to duty, and conduct of unbecoming of a Government Servant and brought down the prestige of the Government and thereby contravened Rules 9 (2) (b) (ii) of AP Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

Hence, it is recommended to recover under AP Revenue Recovery Act, 1864 (cost of red sanders of 12 logs weighing 186 kgs in 01 OR case) from the Government Servant Sri S.Babu.

G.ANANTHA RAMU
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

//FORWARDED ::BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE-II

STATEMENT OF IMPUTATION OF MISCONDUCT OR MISBEHAVIOR IN RESPECT OF THE ARTICLE OF CHARGE FRAMED AGAINST SRI S.BABU, 65 YEARS, FORMERLY WORKED AS FOREST SECTION OFFICER IN MYDUKUR CHECK POST, ONIPENTA FOREST RANGE, MYDUKUR MANDAL, YSR KADAPA DISTRICT.

Sri S.Babuis a native of T.Sunkesula Village, Kamalapuram Mandal, YSR Kadapa District. Hisdate of birth is 26.05.1959. Hejoined into Government Service into 05.08.2009 and worked at Mydukur Check Post from 05.08.2009 to 31.05.2013. Worked as Forest Section OfficerMobile Party &Ganjikunta Section of Onipenta Range from 05.08.2009 to 06.06.2017.He is drawing a basic pay of Rs.46,060/-in the scale of pay of Rs.26,600/- to Rs.77,030/-. He retired from service on 31.05.2019 (60 years).He is here-in-after referred to as Government Servant.

Facts of the case:

On reliable information that the officials working in the O/o the Forest Range, Onipenta, YSR Kadapa District are indulging in certain irregularities in the administration and in discharging official duties, the DSP, ACB, Kadapa intended to conduct a surprise check in the said office and secured mediatorsi.e., Sri Modem Hemanth, Assistant Executive Engineer and Sri Gogulamudi Kishore Kumar, Assistant Technical Officer, ACB officers and staff left the ACB Office, Kadapa on 29.01.2021 at 9.00 AM in one Govt. Vehicle AP16FB-2963 and 2 hired vehicles reached the Forest Check Post, Onipenta, Mydukur Mandal around 10.15 AM. On the instructions of the DSP, all the staff got down from the vehicles in front of the forest check post, situated on Mydukur – Porumamilla Main Road, beside the Main Gate of O/o the FRO, Onipenta. The DSP introduced his identity and the identity of his team members to the staff, who are on duty in uniform at the Check post and ascertained his identity as Sri Jerri Nagarjuna, 20 Years, S/o Nagaraju, Protection Watcher on Out Sourcing basis, O/o the FRO, Onipenta, R/o D.No.1/18, Yerraguntla Town, YSR Kadapa District, Cell No.6303365795. On examination, he stated that he is now on duty and will be relieved by another Protection Watcher ChinnaJambulaiah by tomorrow at 8.00 AM. On the physical check, an amount of Rs.127/- was found in his possession and the same was returned to him. On verification,a "P3 Register" was found on the table of the check post, issued by the Forest Range Officer, Onipenta on 01.10.2020.The said register is being maintained from 03.10.2020 to 28.01.2021. During January 2021 entries have been made in the register from Page No.30 to 41 effecting checks of different vehicles, contents and other details. On verification on Page No.4 of the said register, it is found that the Divisional Forest Officer, Proddatur inspected the Onipenta Check Post on 10.10.2020 at 7.00 PM.

Later, the mediators and the ACB team entered into the O/o the Forest Range Officer, Onipenta located in the compound of the O/o the Forest Range Officer, Onipenta, on the eastern side of Mydukur – Porumamilla Main Road, Mydukur Mandal, YSR Kadapa District. The DSP introduced his identity and the identity of his team members to the staff, who were present without uniforms (plainclothes) in the O/o the Forest Range Officer, Onipenta and informed the purpose of the visit of the ACB team and requested them to co-operate in conducting surprise check. All the doors of the office were guarded and all the persons present in the office were instructed not to move from their places.

The rough sketch of the O/o the Forest Range officer, Onipenta Range, Mydukur Mandal was prepared and duly attested by the DSP and the Mediators. The Office of the Forest Range Officer, Onipenta Forest Range, Mydukur Mandal, YSR Kadapa District is situated on the eastern side of

Mydukur – Porumamilla Main Road, which runs between south and north. The main entrance of the office faces towards the west and has about 6 feet height cement bricks compound wall having iron fencing over the top of the compound wall. The FRO office is situated on the southwest corner of the compound having an upstairs facing towards the northern side. The entire premises of the office are filled with live neem and other trees with dilapidated buildingsseized vehicles and other properties. The ground floor of the office is divided into 4 parts and all the rooms are being used for DRO, Junior Assistant and other field staff and storing the stationery etc., items.

A table and chair are found in the very first room of the entry and another office table, chair and iron safe are available in the 3rd part of the ground floor building. Coming to the terrace a single room is situated facing north, which is being used as the chambers of the Forest Range Officer, Onipenta. In the Office chambers, the office chair and table having a Computer with a Scanner and Printer are situated. A wall-mounted TCL TV was fixed to the eastern sidewall and is used by the FRO to monitor CC TV footage. An iron safe is found in the southwest corner of the room and a table and chair with a computer in the northwest corner of the room for the Data Entry Operator.

Then, the DSP ascertained the names of the staff, who are present in the office as:

1) Sri Chintala Dinesh Kumar Reddy, 35 Years (DOB: 12.04.1985), S/o C.Raja Gopal Reddy, Forest Range Officer, Onipenta Range, Mydukur Mandal, N/o D.No.3/446-1 Upstairs, Raja Reddy Street, Kadapa, R/o Forest Quarters, Onipenta Forest Range, Kadapa, Cell No.9492820005.
2) Sri Afghani Azmathulla Khan, 52 Years, S/o Ummar Khan, Deputy Range Officer, Onipenta Forest Range, Mydukur Mandal, R/o D.No.2/11, Shanthi Nagar, Akkayapalli, Kadapa, Cell No.8985255489.
3) Kum.GunturuVignatha, 22 Years, W/o Gollapalli Sandeep Kumar, Junior Assistant, O/o the DFO, Proddatur, working as Junior Assistant in the O/o the FRO, Onipenta under OD basis, N/o Kolimi Street, Rajampet Mandal, R/o D.No.126/B-20, Peddammagudi Street, Mydukur Town, YSR Kadapa District, Cell No.6305617510.
4) Sri GundrajuHarinatha Raju, 45 Years, S/o Krishna Raju, Forest Beat Officer, Neelapuram Beat, Duvvur Mandal, N/o Gopulapuram Village, Duvvur Mandal, R/o Sreenivasa Nagar, near Raghavendra School, Proddatur Town, YSR Kadapa District, Cell No.9949592235.
5) Sri ChagamareddyBala Linga Reddy, 35 Years, S/o Ramakrishna Reddy, Forest Beat Officer, Maddivaripalli Beat, Onipenta Forest Range, R/o Gopulapuram Village, Duvvur Mandal, YSR Kadapa District, Cell No.8919023950.
6) Sri PalakkagariMallesh, 36 Years, S/o Nadipanna, Data Entry Operator on Out Sourcing basis, O/o the Forest Range Officer, Onipenta, R/o D.No.27/61, Krishnapuram Village, Mydukur Mandal, YSR Kadapa District, Cell No.9701417494.
7) Sri Guerra Suresh, 23 Years, S/o Lakshumaiah, Driver on Out Sourcing Basis, O/o the Forest Range Officer, Onipenta, Mydukur Mandal, R/o Rameswaram Village, Porumamilla Mandal, YSR Kadapa District, Cell No.7095004502.
8) Sri Jerri Nagarjuna, 20 years, S/o Nagaraju, Occ: Protection Watcher on duty under Outsourcing basis, O/o the FRO, Onipenta, R/o Door No. 1/18, Yerraguntla town, YSR Kadapa District, Cell No. 6303365795.

Then, the DSP, ACB, Kadapa asked Sri Chintala Dinesh Kumar Reddy, Forest Range Officer, Onipenta to show the official records, which are maintained in the office. On that, the Forest Range Officer instructed his staff Kum.GunturuVignatha, Junior Assistant and Sri PalakkagariMallesh, Data Entry Operator have produced the following records.

a) Staff Attendance Register:

This Register has been maintained for the office staff onlyfrom 01.09.2020 till to date i.e., on 29.01.2021. The names of (1) Sri Ch.Dinesh Kumar Reddy, FRO, (2) Kum.Vignatha, Jr. Asst., and (3) Smt. Y.Parvathi, OS (OD basis to Social Forestry, Kadapa) were entered in the register. On verification of the said register, it is found that, Sri Ch.Dinesh Kumar Reddy, Forest Range Officer, Onipenta has put his initial as a mark of attendance up to 28.09.2020 only. But not found from 29.09.2020, for October2020, November 2020, December 2020 and January 2021 up to 29.01.2021 whereas Kum.G.Vignatha, Junior Assistant signed from 01.09.2020 to 28.01.2021. On asking by the DSP, Sri Ch.Dinesh Kumar Reddy, FRO, stated that he has not put his initials in the Attendance Register.The said register was seized by the DSP, ACB, Kadapa duly attested by the DSP and the mediators.

It is submittedthat, according to the discussion orally with the Forest Officials, the Attendance Register will be maintained for the Outsourcing employees only and a General Diary will be maintained for the Executive staff in Forest Range offices in Andhra Pradesh.

b) Protection Watchers Attendance Register:

This Register is being maintained from 01.07.2020 till to date i.e. on 29.01.2021. The names of Protection Watchers (1) Sri Y.Sudhakar and (2) N.Sathish Kumar Reddy are entered from the months of July 2020 to September 2020. The name of V.Venkata Ramana, Protection Watcher has been entered in October2020 in place of Y.Sudhakar, Protection Watcher. The name of M.ChinnaJambulaiah, Protection Watcher has been entered in November2020 and December2020 in place ofV.Venkata Ramana, Protection Watcher. In all the pages the FBOs concerned are certifying that the above persons are temporarily working as Protection Watchers at Forest Check Post, Onipenta of M.V.Palli Beat, countersigned by the DRO. But in the month of January 2021, the attendance register is not maintained.On asking, by the DSP, Sri Ch.Dinesh Kumar Reddy, FRO stated that Sri A.Azmathulla Khan, DRO and Sri C.R.B.Linga Reddy, FBO of M.V.Palli Beat failed to maintain the registers for the month of January2021. Further, the FRO stated that he didn't check the Check Post Attendance Register. The register was seized by the DSP, ACB, Kadapa duly attested by the DSP and the mediators.

c) Striking Force Attendance Register:

This Register is being maintained from 01.04.2020 till to date i.e. on 29.01.2021. The names of Five Protection Watchers i.e., (1) K.Samuel, (2) K.Subbarayudu, (3) G.Aravind, (4) N.Vinod, (5) P.Ashok and one Driver i.e. (1) K.C.Obulesu are entered in the said register. All the pages were signed by the DRO. But in the month of January2021, the attendance register is not maintained. On asking by the DSP, Sri Ch.Dinesh Kumar Reddy, FRO stated that Sri A.Azmathulla Khan, DRO failed to maintain the register for the month of January2021. Further, the FRO stated that he didn't check the Striking Force Attendance Register. The said register was seized by the DSP, ACB, Kadapa duly attested by the DSP and the mediators.

d) Offence Register (OR) – 2 Registers:

The register was maintained from 09.10.2015. On verification, this register is containing from OR No.59/2015-2016, Dt.09.10.2015 to OR No.107/2015-2016, Dt. 28.03.2016 from Pages Nos.1 to 25. OR No.1/2016-2017, Dt.06.04.2016 to OR No.68/2016-2017, Dt. 24.03.2017 from Pages Nos.29 to 70. OR No.1/2017-2018, Dt.01.04.2017 to OR No.120/2017-2018, Dt. 19.03.2018 from Pages Nos.73 to 136. OR No.1/2018-2019, Dt.04.04.2018 to OR No.83/2018-2019, Dt. 24.03.2019 from Pages Nos.139 to 185. OR No.1/2019-2020, Dt.02.04.2019 to OR No.111/2019-2020, Dt. 26.03.2020 from Page Nos.188 to 251.

Another register is being maintained from 01.04.2020. On verification, this register is contained from OR No.01/2020-2021, Dt. 24.04.2020 to OR No.35/2020-2021, Dt. 24.12.2020 from Pages Nos.1 to 18. Each page contains the details of 2 offences having entered the date, place and time of the offence and Report, Names of the Complainant, Accused, Arrest details etc., duly signed by the FRO, Onipenta, YSR Kadapa District on each OR No.

Further 2 bunchesof papers were found in the register (2020-2021). On verification, the said 2 bunches are the (1) Form – "A" Preliminary Offence Report (POR) vide Book No.41, Report No.45 submitted P.ManiSucharitha, Forest Beat Officer, Gangayapalli Beat on 03.01.2021 against the accused S.Farooq, S/o Nayab Rasool, Mydukur (V) & (M), YSR Kadapa District and (2) Form – "A" Preliminary Offence Report (POR) vide Book No.24, Report No.15 submitted Sri C.R.B.Linga Reddy, Forest Beat Officer, M.V. Palle Beat on 04.01.2021 against the accused V.Narayana Swamy, S/o Venkatesh, 52 Years, Mittamanupalli (V), Mydukur (M), YSR Kadapa District.

However, the above 2 Preliminary Offence Reports have not been entered in the Offence Register 2020-2021 by issuing OR numbers.

Kum. G.Vignatha, Junior Assistant failed to enter the 2 numbers of PORs in the OR Register. On asking, the FRO stated that the Junior Assistant failed to enter the same in the OR register due to work pressure. Every month Junior Asst. will produce the updated OR register for my verification. For this reason, he didn't see the OR register recently.

Among 37 reported offences for the year 2020-2021, 36 offences were compounded and a single case vide OR No.10/2020-2021 (Red Sanders case) was registered on 08.07.2020against A1 BukkeMallikarjuna Naik bySri A.Sreehari, FBO, M.R. Palli beat, the accused was arrested and sent for remand. The remaining 3 accused i.e., A2 to A4 were surrendered before the Hon'ble Court due to pressure from the Forest officials as per the version of the Forest Range Officer.

The DSP got the Photostat copies of the first and last pages with a certificate and register covering pages of the Offence Register for the year 2020-2021 containing 4 sheets that have been seized duly attested by the DSP and the mediators.

e) UDOR (Undetected Offence Register) (F-Form):

The register is maintained for the year. Entries up to the year 2019-2020 are only entered. No details for the current year 2020-2021 are entered in the Undetected Offence Register.

The DSP got the Photostat copies of 5 sheets including the register covering the page duly attested by the DSP and the mediators.

f) Form – 5 Register:

This register is maintained for all the registered and undetected offences and Red Sander logs. The Red Sander logs quantity of 33.5508 Metric tons as per Form-5 is not on the ground. On asking the FRO stated that the said 33.5508 metric tons of Red Sanders logs are not found on the ground in the premises of Onipenta Forest Range. On asking about the above shortages, the FRO, Onipenta has stated as follows.

He took charge of Onipenta Range on 09.10.2017. After being charged by him, he verified all the records and stock positions of the various items at the end of October 2017. He had a suspicion about the stock of red sander logs, which were supposed to be present in the range complex, and started a thorough enquiry.

On 31.03.2018, he submitted an initial report to the DFO, Proddatur vide Rc.No.22/2018, Dt.31.03.2018 stating that some of the custodians i.e. FBOs have not accounted properly for the seized Red sander logs, even after serving notices to them. The details have been submitted to the DFO, Proddatur to proceed further and to findout the facts.

Later, on verification of Case records, Offence Records, TCR's FORM-9A & 9B (Red sander material present inside and outside depot) and FORM-5 (Receipts and issue of Timber and other produce including Red Sander logs & Vehicles involved in offence about the Depot),it was noticed that a quantity of 116.797 MT's of red sander wood logs had to be present in the range complex as per FORM-5. On verification ofthe logs, which were present in the Onipenta range complex, they noticed that all the red sander logs were not present in the lot form and not in the case ofthe wise lot, which is very difficult for them to find out the casewise logs then immediately he issued notices to all concern red sander custodians vide RC.No.22/2018 Dt.02.01.2018, 05.01.2018, 11.08.2018, about the Onipenta range, who are working presently and formerly worked in Onipenta Range through connected range officers working in the Proddatur division. Some of the staff approached to Forest Range officer, Onipenta Range i.e., and showed the red sander produce, which was present in their custody to the concernedOnipenta Range staff. They verified the logs for the seizure list, which were present in the case records then they transported those logs with valid permit invoices and proper escort and in return escort persons handed over the produce (property) to the depot authority and the escort party submitted permits, invoice acknowledgement copies to the Range office.

Further, he submitted that some of the staff had submitted some documented proof supporting them that they were not the custodians of the particular cases, which was mentioned in the notice and after satisfying himself he changed the custodian name. After that, he transported the rest of the red sander logs from Onipenta Range to Tirupathi go-down. Further on verification of the FORM- 9A & 9B (Red sander material present inside and outside depot) and FORM- 5 (Receipts and issue of Timber and other produce including Red Sander logs & Vehicles involved in the offence about the Depot) as on 24.06.2019, it was noticed that 49,644 KGs of red sander logs had to be present in the Range, but they were not found on the ground in the Onipenta Range complex.

Further, he submitted that some of the Red Sander cases were not identified and none of the custodians had come forward for claiming the produce (RS logs) as per the instructions of the DFO(WL) Proddatur Division in the review meeting and received instructions through RC.No.1311/2018-P1 Dt.15.10.2018, they transported the red sanders logs from Onipenta to the central red sander depot, Tirupati by duly conducting Panchanama by the Onipenta Range staff by re-measuring, weighing and re-numbering the entire logs and preparing proper invoice and valid FORM-1 transit vide permits No. 245875 Dt.15.10.2018 & 245877 Dt.14.12.2018 with a quantity of 771 No of Logs 16.09320 MTs.Thus, it was identified that 33,550 kgs of red sander logs were not found on the ground, but theywere reflected on the paper.

Further, he submitted that the Onipenta Range office vide RC.No. 22/2018 Dt.22.06.2019 to the Forest Range officer Proddatur Range with a request to verify the produce pertains to Onipenta in OR. Nos. 99/07-08, 19/08-09 & 117/08-09 where the custodians were and to furnish the factual status report whether the material has been received by the Forest Range officer, Proddatur Range which was kept at the division office compound or not and if received then the red sander produce was transported to central red sander depot or not. Then FRO, Proddatur has furnished the information regarding the above three OR cases in vide Rc.No.91/2007 Dt.25.06.2019 that, the productsabout the Onipenta Range cases said above three OR cases have not been received by the Forest Range officer, Proddatur Range where the material should be at DFO's Office Complex, Proddatur.

Thus, it was identified that 33,550 KGs of red sander logs were not found on the ground, but they were reflected on the paper.

The forest officials responsible for the missing Red Sander logs:

Sl. No	Custodians	Case details	No. of logs not found on the ground	Weight in KGs	Remarks
1	G.Ananda Rao, the then Forest Beat Officer	OR No-134/03-04	3	13	After verification of connected case records with TCRs about the custodian, who worked in Onipenta Range in above said Sl.No.01 & 02 OR cases produce(property) was taken over by Sri G.Ananda Rao from Sri P.S.N. Raju on 10.10.2005 but Sri G.Ananda Rao has not handed over to Sri K. RamaSubbaiah, who was taken charge on 18.08.2007 and above said Sl.No.03 & 04 OR Cases were booked by Sri G. Ananda Rao but G.Ananda Rao was not handed over to Sri P.Ramanaiah, who was taken charge on 14.07.2011. Hence, he is held responsible for the non-availability of the above-said red sander produce.
		OR No-69/04-05	47	1750	
		OR No.42/10-11	35	283	
		OR No.43/10-11	174	2030	
		Total =	259	4076	
2	S.Sudhakar	OR No. 80/04-05	27	1037	After verification of connected case

	(Retired), Forest Beat Officer				records with TCRs pertaining to the custodians who worked in Onipenta Range in the above said OR case, Sri S. Sudhakar was the custodian of the above logs but Sri S. Sudhakar was not handed over to Sri SC.Mahaboob Basha who was taken charge on 10.08.2009. Hence, he is held responsible non-availability of the above said red sander produce.
		Total =	27	1037	
3	S.Babu (Retired), Forest Section officer	OR No. 39/07-08	12	186	After verification of connected case records with TCRs pertaining to the custodian worked in Onipenta Range above said OR cases were taken over by Sri S. Babu from Sri K.RamaSubbaiah on 08.08.2009 but Sri S Babu did not handover to Sri S.Srinivasulu who was taken charge on 04.11.2009.
		Total =	12	186	
4	Y.Rajani Kumar, the then Forest Beat Officer	OR No. 60/07-08	108	1509	After verification of connected case records with TCRs pertaining to the custodians who worked in Onipenta Range above said OR & UDOR cases were taken over by Sri Y. Rajani Kumar from Sri P.Subbarayudu on 24.10.2011 and Sri Y. Rajani Kumar not been handed over to B.V.Raju who has taken charge on 27.07.2012. Hence Sri Y.RajaniKumaris held responsible forthe non-
		OR No. 117/08-09	180	5312	
		OR No.75/10-11	25	281	
		OR No.13/12-13	25	368	
		OR No.21/12-13	24	513	
		UDOR No.43/09-10	28	529	

					availability of the above-said red sander produce.
		Total =	390	8512	
5	P.S.N.Raju, (Retired),Forest Section Officer	OR No. 70/07-08	40	1045	After verification of connected case records with TCRs pertaining to the custodian who worked in Onipenta Range above said OR & UDOR caseswere booked by Sri P.S.N.Raju and he has not to handoverto anybody.Hence, he is held responsible for the non-availability of the above-said red sander produce.
		OR No. 78/07-08	70	1773	
		UDOR No.22/10-11	5	77	
		Total =	115	2895	
6	P.Krishna, Forest Beat Officer	OR No. 99/07-08	288	8376	After verification of connected case records with TCRs pertaining to the custodians who worked in Onipenta Range above said OR cases were booked by Sri P.Krishna and Sri P.Krishna has not handover to his next successor. Hence, he is held responsible for the non-availability of the said RS produce.
		Total =	288	8376	
7	P.ObulaSubbanna, Retired Forest Section Officer	OR No. 19/08-09	343	7180	After verification of connected case records with TCRs about the custodians who worked in Onipenta Range above said OR case was custodian by Sri P. ObulaSubbannaas an FSO Mobile Party and he has not handover to his next successor. Hence, he is held responsible for the

					non-availability of the above-said red sander produce and the custodian of the produce was retired from the service as per the enquiry in the division office.
		Total =	343	7180	
8	P.Ramanaiah, Forest Beat Officer	OR No. 58/10-11	20	235	After verification of connected case records with TCRs pertaining to the custodians who worked in Onipenta Range above said OR cases were taken over by Sri P.Ramanaiah from Sri G.Anandam on 14.07.2011 and Sri P.Ramanaiahdid not handover to his next successor Smt.B.Eswaramma on 15.11.2014. Hence, he is held responsible fornon-availability of the above said red sander produce.
		OR No. 61/10-11	25	309	
		Total =	45	544	
9	N.Ramu (Expired)	OR No. 21/11-12	79	2005	After verification of connected case records with TCRs about thecustodian who worked in OnipentaRange, Sri N. Ramu is held responsible for the missing of the Red Sander Logs in which material was not present in the Forest Range Complex. Hence, he has been held responsible for the non-availability of the Red Sander products.
		UDOR No.21/10-11	121	2003	
		UDOR No.09/11-12	57	2733	
		UDOR No.52/09-10	66	1167	
		UDOR No.54/09-10	57	1281	
		Total =	380	9189	
10	G.V. Ramana, Forest Beat Officer	UDOR No.70/07-08	217	6910	After verification of connected case records with TCRs pertaining to the custodian who worked in Onipenta
		UDOR No.10/08-09	37	289	

					Range above said UDOR case was booked by Sri G.V.Ramana and he did not handover to Sri N.Ramu on 18.02.2010. Hence, he is held responsible for the non-availability of the above said red sander produce.
		Total =	254	7199	
11	C.Prasad Rao, Village Forest Worker.	UDOR No. 04/12-13	17	450	After verification of connected case records with TCRs about the custodian who worked in Onipenta Range above said UDOR case was booked by Sri C.Prasad Rao and he has not handover to his next successor Sri P.Ramanaiah on 31.07.2012. Hence, he is held responsible for the non-availability of the above said red sander produce.
		Total =	17	450	
	Grand Total		**2130**	**49,644**	

Further, it is submitted that FRO, Onipenta in Form-V for the month of April 2019 submitted that he has transported 771 Nos of Red SanderLogs weighing 16.09320MTs to Red Sander Central Depot (State Art Godown), Tirupati using permits 245875 Dt. 16.10.2018 and 245877, Dt. 14.12.2018 as per the instructions of the DFO, Proddatur, vide R.C.No.1311/2018 – P1, Dt. 15.10.2018. These Red Sander Logs do not have proper identification marks like offence numbers and measurements due to exposure to sunlight and rain. Hence all the logs were transported to Red Sander Central Depot (State Art Godown), Tirupati by drafting Panchanama with proper permit and invoice. Finally,FRO, Onipenta reported that the balance i.e., 49,644Kg of Red Sander material not available on the ground. Hence the above 11 individuals are responsible for the missing 49,644 Kg of Red Sander wood on the ground.

No. of Red Sander Logs were seized and how they were disposed of:

The Forest Range officer, Onipenta has reported that 27710 No. RS logs weighing 685.139 M.Tons were seized in forest offences in Onipenta Range from 2000-01 to 2020-21 which includes RS logs seized and handed over by police.

Further, he also reported that 30357 RS logs weighing 748.161 M.Tons were disposed of by transporting RS logs from Onipenta and Proddatur to RS

Central Deport, Kadapa and Tirupathi during the period from 2000-01 to 2020-21. This includes the 2471 Red Sander logs weighing 64.231 M.Tons seized by Flying Squad (RS) Division, Kadapa. The transportation of RS logs was done as per rules along with proper permits and invoices and with the escort party.

Statement showing year-wise RS logs seized and transported to RS Central Depot are as detailed below.

		Seized			**Transported to RS Central Depots**	
Sl. No	Year	No.of RS Cases	No.of RS Logs	Weight in Kgs.	No.of RS logs	Weight
1	2000-01	5	275	9489.00	0	0
2	2001-02	2	49	2054.00	451	17046.00
3	2002-03	6	225	9809.00	0	0
4	2003-04	5	206	8936.00	0	0
5	2004-05	20	771	26026.50	465	16381.50
6	2005-06	16	727	23789.00	575	18290.00
7	2006-07	64	2861	78385.00	1091	32931.00
8	2007-08	109	7840	186719.00	6241	150867.00
9	2008-09	39	2457	60062.00	2296	58027.00
10	2009-10	98	4341	104015.00	1570	40476.00
11	2010-11	44	1957	36852.00	0	0
12	2011-12	50	1663	36133.00	8	209.00
13	2012-13	30	905	22351.00	4212	103486.00
14	2013-14	63	1483	35771.00	1398	36688.00
15	2014-15	33	645	13267.50	6215	146276.54
16	2015-16	12	424	10267.00	217	5405.00
17	2016-17	13	204	4539.00	0	0
18	2017-18	9	172	2958.00	1794	34232.41
19	2018-19	12	242	5981.24	2826	63152.19
20	2019-20	13	261	7707.78	988	24566.72
21	2020-21	1	2	27.90	10	127.40
	TOTAL	645	27710	685139.92	30357	748161.76

The excess weight of 63,021.84 of RS logs handed over by Flying Squads and mobile parties were seized and handed over to the FRO, Onipenta and the same were transported to the RS Central Depots at Kadapa and Tirupathi.Further, 49,644 KGs of Red Sander logs were not included in the above abstract.

Documents from Red Sandal Depot with respect to handing over the case property/RS logs by the forest officials:

Acknowledgement of Red Sander logs received in the duplicate invoice will be issued by the in-charge Forest Section Officer / Forest Range Officer of RS Central Deport. A model copy is enclosed herewith for information.

Total cases registered and action taken with respect to case property i.e., RS Logs:

The Forest Range Officer, Onipenta has reported that 27710 Red Sander logs weighing 685.139 M.Tons were seized in 645 Nos. cases (OR No.245, UDOR 349 and Crime 51 i.e. total of 645 Nos) in Onipenta Range from 2000-01 to 2020-21.

Further, it is submitted that 30357 RS logs weighing 748.161 M.Tons including the RS material seized by FSP (RS) Division, Kadapa were disposed of by transporting to RS Central Depot, Kadapa and Tirupati with proper permits and invoices.

Based on the above observations and violations, a detailed report was submitted to the Divisional Forest Officer, Proddatur vide Rc.No.22/2018 Dt. 27.06.2019 by fixing the responsibility to the custodians to take further action in this regard and the same was incorporated in FORM-5. The copies of the details of Form-5 and the detailed report dated 27.06.2019 are herewith submitted. The entire matter is with DFO, Proddatur for further action.

Responsibility of D.F.O in missing RS logs:

DFO,Proddatur stated that, whenever the Forest Range Officer seizes Rs logs, they shall be produced before the Authorized Officer cum Divisional Forest Officer within 24 hours of seizure as required under Section (44) of AP Forest Act, 1967. After inspection, the Divisional Forest Officer cum authorized Officer will return the seizures for the safe custody of the Forest Guard or Forest Watcher and the certificate to that effect shall be obtained in Form-C. As per A.P Forest Offences (Compounding and Prosecution) Rules, 1969, the Forest Guard or Forest watcher are responsible for safe custody until the case is disposed of or handed over the forest produce to the concerned Government RS Depots under proper acknowledgement.The detailed surprise check report discloses that a detailed report was submitted by Sri Chintala Dinesh Kumar Reddy, Forest Range Officer, Onipenta Forest Range Officer to the Divisional Forest Officer, Proddatur vide RC.No. 22/2018, Dt. 27.06.2019 by fixing the responsibility to the custodians to take further action in this regard and the same was incorporated in Form-5. In this connection, the action taken by DFO Proddatur on the report of Sri Chintala Dinesh Kumar Reddy, Forest Range Officer, Onipenta Range is as follows.

Further, DFO Proddatur stated that based on the report of the Forest Range officer, Onipenta vide his RC.No. 22/2018 dt 27.06.2019, he has issued notices to the concerned custodians vide this office Ref. No.241/2015-P4, Dt. 16.03.2020, 15.10.2020 & 15.03.2021 with instructions to appear before the FRO, Onipenta and handover the RS logs which are in their custody. However, the above custodian subordinate staff have failed to comply with the instructions issued by the DFO (WL), Proddatur. Further, all the custodians were given the opportunity to compare the RS logs as per the Preliminary Offence Report (POR) with the RS logs transported to RS Central Depot, Tirupati through invoice and submit a report for taking further action. The report is awaited from the custodians. After receipt of the report from the custodians action will be initiated as per the Rules in force.

During the enquiry, it was elicited that Sri Chintala Dinesh Kumar Reddy, Forest Range Officer, Onipenta Forest Range Officer to the Divisional Forest Officer, Proddatur vide RC. No. 22/2018, Dt. 27.06.2019 by fixing the responsibility to the custodians to take further action. But the DFO Proddaturserved notices vide Ref. No.241/2015-P4, Dt. 16.03.2020, 15.10.2020 & 15.03.2021 to the custodians after 09 months. Still, it is pending to finalize the missing RS logs49,644 Kgs.

During the enquiry, it is elicited that Sri Chintala Dinesh Kumar Reddy, Forest Range Officer, Onipenta Forest Range Officer to the Divisional Forest Officer, Proddatur vide RC.No.22/2018, Dt. 27.06.2019 by fixing the responsibility to the custodians to take further action. But the DFO Proddatur served notices vide Ref. No.241/2015-P4, Dt. 16.03.2020, 15.10.2020 & 15.03.2021 to the custodians after 09 months. Still, it is pending to finalize the missing RS logs 49,644 Kgs. It is elicited that, SO., M.Nagarjuna Reddy SFS., Divisional Forest Officer (WL), Proddatur Division did not take any action by fixing the responsibility against the custodians' concern or other officers that are responsible for the missing of the above RS logs.

Details of documents related to the seizure of Rs logs, maintenance of logs and disposal of logs:

The following documents are related to the seizure of RS logs, maintenance of RS logs and disposal of RS logs.

Sl.No.	Item	Documents
1	Seizure of Red sander logs	1) List of RS logs with physical measurements such as length, mid-girth, weight etc. 2) Custodian certificate.
2	Maintenance of RS logs	Form-V Register
3	Disposal of RS logs	1) Transit Permit in Form-I 2) Invoice 3) Acknowledgement in an invoice from Govt. RS Depot.

VEHICLES:

On asking by the DSP, Sri CH.Dinesh Kumar Reddy, FRO furnished the information regarding vehicles seized and kept in the premises of the O/o the FRO, Onipenta. As per the list furnished by him,a total of 122 vehicles are kept on the premises of O/o the FRO, Onipenta. Out of which, 15 vehicles were sold out in an auction on 15.12.2020. 2 vehicles viz., (1) Duster Car bearing Regd. No.TN83 Z 0707 vide in OR No.74/2019-2020 and (2) ZEUS SUZUKI without registration number in OR No.2/2010-2011 are said to be available at O/o the DFO, Proddatur. Then, verified the vehicles in the list furnished by the FRO and found 95 vehicles are available on the ground in the premises of O/o the FRO, Onipenta. The remaining 10 vehicles are not physically found on the ground.

The details of the vehicles not traced are as follows:

1) Mini Lorry bearing No.AP13 X 950 in OR No.30/2007-08.
2) Lorry bearing No.AP26 2199 in OR No.117/2008-09.
3) TATA Sumo bearing No.AP05 BG 7019 in OR No.116/2009-2010.
4) Pulsar Motorcycle Black colour bearing No. AP04 M 8996 in OR No.51/2010-11.
5) Bolero bearing No.AP04 TV 1341 in OR.No.101/2011-2012.

6) Bajaj Motor Cycle bearing No. AP28 D 0736 in OR No.52/2013-14.
7) Tractor Talley without registration number in OR. No.29/2015-16.
8) Passion Pro bearing No.AP39 B 0790 in OR No.41/2019-20.
9) TVS Victor bearing No.AP04 BM 0315 in OR No.74/2019-20.
10) TATA Sumo bearing No.AP21 D 689 in UDOR No.1/2007-2008.

VEHICLES FOUND BUT, NOT IN THE LIST: 2 Nos.

1) Mahindra 475 Tractor and Talley UDOR No.13/13-14
2) Tractor and Talley OR No. 81/10-11

UN-AUTHORIZED VEHICLES (NOT IN THE LIST): – 15 Nos.

1) Eicher bearing No. AP16 U 2613
2) Hindustan Tractor Engine AE 427 (Condemned position)
3) Bajaj Auto AP 26 W 7914
4) Armada Jeep AP02 U 46
5) Luggage Auto AP 04 U 9518
6) Ape Luggage Auto AP04 U 2832
7) Pulsar 150 CC Chases No. MD2DHDHZZSCH59348
8) TVS JIVE Blue colour AP 04 AB 9091
9) Suzuki Two-wheeler AP04 6125
10) Suzuki Two-wheeler AP04 D 3728
11) Suzuki Samurai Two-wheeler AP04 A 186
12) Pulsar two-wheeler AP04 AB 4016 (Condemned position)
13) TVS Apache two-wheeler Yellow (No register number)
14) Kinetic Honda two-wheeler (No register number)
15) Bajaj Discover two-wheeler (Condemned position)

On asking about the following vehicles, the FRO stated that these vehicles are used for patrolling purposes, collection of information, for chasing illegal transportation smugglers.

1) Passion PRO two-wheeler AP04 BW 8551 vide OR.No.41/2019-2020.
2) Pulsar 150 CC two-wheeler AP39 EK 7038, engine No. DHYCKA98133 vide OR No.56/2019-2020.
3) Pulsar 150 CC two-wheeler Tr.No.AP21 VB TR 6150, Engine No. DHZWFC30175 vide OR No.56/2019-2020.
4) Innova Car bearing registration No. AP39 BE 4532 concerned in OR.No.87/2019-20 of Onipenta Range.
5) TATA Sumo bearing registration No.AP04 BC 6727 in Cr.No.128/2020 of Mydukur PS.

The DSP seized the following documents duly attested by the DSP and we the mediators.

(1) Form No.5 (Full Sheet) during the month of September2017 contains 12 Sheets.
(2) Form No.5(Full Sheet) during the month of June 2019 contains 10 Sheets.
(3) Form No.5 (Full Sheet) during the month of December2020 contains 9 Sheets.
(4) List of seized vehicles in Onipenta Range, which was produced by the FRO having Serial Nos.1 to 122 in 6 Sheets.
(5) A copy of a letter of the FRO, Onipenta addressing to the DFO, Proddatur vide in Rc.No.03/2018, Dt. 20.01.2021 regarding Red Sanders vehicle cases-pending of vehicles details aboutOnipenta Range having 4 Sheets.
(6) A copy of a letter of the DFO, Proddatur vide in Rc.No.1018/2012-P7, Dt. 26.11.2020 regarding the sale of confiscated and condemned vehicles, tender cum auction notice having 4 Sheets.
(7) A copy of a letter addressed by the FRO, Onipenta to the DFO, Proddatur vide in Rc.No.22/2018, Dt. 31.03.2018 regarding detailed

custodians report of the existing Red Sanders logs in Onipenta Range having 4 Sheets.

(8) A copy of a letter addressed by the FRO, Onipenta to the DFO, Proddatur vide in Rc.No.22/2018, Dt. 27.06.2019 regarding details of custodians of the Red Sanders logs and shortage of the Red Sanders logs to take action.

(9) Photostat copy of Workbook relating to the final report, Dt. 27.06.2019 containing 115 Sheets.

(In this regard, it is clarified that 10 Nos. of vehicles were found missing that were seized during different cases in FRO, Onipenta. Among the above 10 Nos. of vehicles identified as missing during the Surprise Check,01 TATA Sumo vehicle bearing No. AP05 BG 7019 alone was identified by the DFO, Proddatur. In this regard, correspondence is going on internally between theDFO, Proddatur and FRO, Onipenta. Hence, the only one vehicle identified as missing by the DFO, Proddaturis included in the list of 10 missing vehicles identified during the Surprise Check.

Seizure of vehicles and how they are disposed:

DFO Proddatur that as per the information furnished by the Forest Range Officer, Onipenta, 329 Nos. vehicles were seized in Onipenta Range in Forest offences from 2000-01 to 2021-22 (upto 21.09.2021). Out of 329 No. vehicles, 229 vehicles were disposed/sold through sealed tender cum open auction by a committee consisting of DFO (WL) Proddatur, DFO, FS (RS) Kadapa, and Motor Vehicle Inspector, Proddatur and 7 No. vehicles are allotted to various Officers for departmental use by the Prl. CCF (HoFF) AP, Guntur and the remaining 92 No. unsold vehicles in Onipenta Range Office premises.

Vehicles seized in RS cases	Vehicles sold through sealed tender cum open auction	Vehicles allotted by the PCCF (HoFF) to various officers for Departmental user	Missing vehicles	Vehicles remaining in the Onipenta FRO complex
329	229	7	1	92

Action was taken on missing vehicles and unauthorized vehicles and who is responsible for the same:

DFO Proddatur stated that as per information furnished by the FRO, Onipenta vide Ref. No. 09/2020, Dt. 05.02.2021, there are no unauthorized vehicles in the Onipenta Range complex. Regarding missing vehicles FRO, Onipenta reported that one Sumo bearing No.AP05 BG 7019 seized in OR. No. 116/2009-10 in Maddivaripalli beat of Onipenta Range is not present in the premises of Onipenta Range compound. Sri P.P. Subbarayudu presently working as FSO, Ganjikunta section formerly worked as FBO, Maddivaripalli beat is the custodian of the said vehicle. Sri P.P Subbarayudu has submitted a reply that the said vehicle is kept on the premises of the FRO, Proddatur. FRO, Proddatur has been instructed to submit a detailed report on the above-seized vehicle kept on the premises of the FRO office, Proddatur. The reply is awaited from FRO, Proddatur.

During the surprise check, it was noticed that there are 10 Nos. of un-authorized vehicles in the office premises of FRO Onipenta. The same was mentioned in the surprise check proceedings before the independent mediators and the SO Chinthala Dhinesh Kumar Reddy, FRO. However, it was observed that there is a variation between the physical verification of the vehicles and the report submitted by the FRO Onipenta to the DFO

Proddatur. Further, the FRO Onipenta said that vide letter No 09/2020 Dt. 05.02.2021 only one Sumo bearing AP 05 BG 7019 seized in OR no 116/2009-10 in Maddivaripalli beat of OnipentaRange is not present in the premises of Onipenta Range compound. However, the FRO did not mention the above fact during the Surprise Check and calculation of the un-authorized vehicle account before the mediators.

Budget Allotment:

The Forest Range Officer, Onipenta presented a statement of Budget allotment for the year 2020-2021. On perusal of the statement, an amount of Rs.24,45,452/- was sanctioned and among the said amount Rs.17,76,003/- has been expended by executing the works like Digging of pits, plantation, transport, purchase of instruments, organizing publicity and awareness programmes, soil work, etc., as of29.01.2021. The works allotted to the FBOs are (1) Sri N.Padmanabaiah, (2) Sri G.Harinatha Raju, (3) Sri C.R.Bala Linga Reddy, (4) Sri A.Sreehari, (5) Smt. P.ManiSucharitha and (6) Sri M.Mallikarjuna. According to the procedure, the works should be executed through four methods i.e., (1) the departmental method, (2) the piece of work contract method, (3) the lumpsum contract method and (4) the schedule contract method. Further, after the execution of such works, the Range Officer should give a completion certificate to each work on its execution. But in the above execution of works noticed in the budget allotment statement for the year 2020-2021, there are no Completion Certificates issued by the Forest Range Officer, Onipenta.

The DSP seized the Details of Budget Allotment for 2020-2021 containing 9 sheets duly attested by the DSP and the mediators.

DFO, Proddatur stated that an amount of Rs.24,45,452/- was sanctioned from the budget allotted for the year 2020-2021. Among the said amount, Rs.17,76,003/- has been expended by executing the works like digging of pits, plantation, transport, purchase of instruments organizing publicity, soil works and awareness programmes etc., But, as per the budget allotment statement for the year 2020-2021, there are no work completion certificates. Therefore, there is a suspicion that, whether any deviations or criminal misconduct committed in the allotment of works to FBOs (i) Sri N.Padmanabaiah, (ii) Sri G.Harinadha Raju, (iii) Sri C.R.Bala Linga Reddy, (iv) Sri A.Sreehari (v) Smt.P.ManiSucharitha(vi) Sri M.Mallikarjunudu and in the execution of works.

DFO,Proddatur stated that no deviations (or) criminal misconduct committed is noticed in Budget allotment under different schemes to an amount of Rs.24,45,452/- for the execution of works to an amount of Rs. 17,76,003/- to the following FBOs during 2020-21 upto 29.01.2021.

1) Sri N.Padmanabaiah, FBO Gajijunta Beat (I/c) Kothapalli Beat.

2) Sri G.Harinatha Raju, FBO Neelapuram Beat.

3) Sri C.R.Balalinga Reddy, FBO, Maddivaripalli Beat.

4) Sri A.Sreehari, FBO, Mudireddypalli Beat.

5) Smt. P.Mani Sucharitha, FBO, Gangayapalli Beat.

6) Sri M.Mallikarjuna, FBO, Thippireddypalli Beat.

Further, DFO Stated that Range level completion reports during 2020-21 have already been filed by the Forest Range Officer, Onipenta.Further,

the FRO, Onipenta has submitted work completion reports for 18 works pertaining to the year 2020-21 which was sanctioned by the DFO, Proddatur. Out of 18 work completion reports, 15 work completion reports are filed and the remaining 3 work completion reports are under scrutiny and will be filed as early as possible.

(It is clarified that, during the Surprise Check, while verifying the works allotment and its execution for the year 2020-2021 in Onipenta Forest Range, no work completion reports were found against all the executed 18 works. But, the DFO, Proddatur informed that the FRO, Onipenta submitted work completion reports for the 18 works and he issued reports to 15 works and the remaining 3 reports are pending)

a) Regular Cash Book:

This Register is being maintained from 30.04.2020till to date i.e., on 31.12.2020 from Page Nos 001 to 063. Further, we found some challans were pinned in this register and on verification of the said challans it was found that --

(1)CMFS Transaction ID: 40136342882020 for Rs.300/- paid on 21.12.2020, (2)CMFS Transaction ID: 40136360052020 for Rs.300/- paid on 21.12.2020, (3)CMFS Transaction ID: 40136966542020 for Rs.22,600/- paid on 22.12.2020, (4)CMFS Transaction ID: 40136947422020 for Rs.27600/- paid on 22.12.2020, (5)CMFS Transaction ID: 40145679932020 for Rs.10,000/- paid on 04.01.2021,(6)CMFS Transaction ID: 40145676282020 for Rs.10,000/- paid on4.1.2021, (7)CMFS Transaction ID. 40149528562020 for Rs.10,000/- paid on 08.01.2021and (8)CMFS Transaction ID: 40153929872020 for Rs.3,000/- paid on 18.01.2021.

The above transactions from Sl.No.1 to 8 has not been entered into the Regular Cash Book Register, which has been maintained since30.04.2020 by the FRO.

On asking, the FRO stated that all the above Challans from Sl.No.1 to 8 will be entered by the end of the month regularly.

b) Bio-Metric:

Attendance of the employees is not registered through the Bio-Metric system in the office. On asking the FRO, he stated that it is not used in the office for 1 ½ years as they are field staff. But no order for the closure of the Bio-Metric method is available to him.

c) Inward Register:

The Inward Register is <u>not maintained</u> in the O/o the Forest Range Officer, Onipenta Forest Range. On asking, the FRO, he stated that it is to be maintained but not maintained in the office, due to the lack of a SeniorAssistant and recently the Junior Assistant has been working in the office on an OD basis.

d) Outward Register:

The Outward Register is <u>not available</u> in the O/o the Forest Range Officer, Onipenta Forest Range. On asking, the FRO stated that it was sent to the O/o the DFO, Proddatur with Technical Assistant along with Tappalfor daily Tappal's work.

e) Range Information Books:

This Range information Book is not maintained in the O/o the FRO, Onipenta Forest Range. On asking, the FRO stated that the information is available on the Range computer.

f) Form – 6 Register:

This Register is maintained from April 2007 to December 2020 and the details of transactions have been entered in this Register.

g) Form – 8 Register:

This Register is maintained from April 2007 to December2020 and the details of transactions have been entered in this Register.

h) Form – 9 Register:

This register is maintained from April 2007 to December 2020 and the details of transactions have been entered in this Register.

i) Leave Register:

This register has been maintainedsince 01.01.2021.

j) Permit Register:

The above register is maintained and only 2 entries have been entered in the register.

k) Weapons Register:

The register is maintained and a total of 11 weapons are in the possession of FRO, DRO, FSO and FBOs.

l) Store Registers:

i) RS Protection Register:

The register is being maintained from 29.09.2018 to 05.01.2021.

ii) PT Scheme Register:

The register is being maintained from 01.02.2019 to 05.01.2021.

iii) CAMPA Register:

The register is being maintained from 31.03.2016 to 25.03.2019.

m) Uniform Register:

This register is not maintained.

n) Personal Register:

This register is not maintained.

o) Library Register:

This Register is maintained.

p) Government Vehicles:

There are 2 Government vehicles i.e., AP04-AS-8693 Mahindra Thar is being used by the FRO and AP04-AD-0403 Mahindra Jeep is being used by the Striking Force. A Movement Register is maintained in the office.

q) Maps:

Maps are available with the FRO, Section Officers and Beat Officers.

r) Wireless Sets:

There are 5 wireless sets available of which 1 is in the office of the FRO, Onipenta, another one is at the Check Post, Mydukur and 3 are in 3 base camps viz., (1) Balappabhavi, (2) C.L.Bhavi and (3) KomitivaniBhavi.

On verification of the CC cameras, 6 CC Cameras are on the premises and 2 CC cameras in the check post are available in working condition under the control of the O/o the FRO, Onipenta.

The DSP, ACB, Kadapa has examined 1. Sri Ch. Dinesh Kumar Reddy, FRO., 2). Sri Afghani Azmathulla, DRO, 3) Kum.G. Vignatha, Jr. Assistant, 4). Sri G. Harinatha Raju, FBO, 5). Sri Ch. Bala Linga Reddy, FBO, 6). Sri P. Mallesh, DEO, 7). Sri G. Suresh, Driver, 8). Sri M.Chinna Jambulaiah, Protection Watcher, 9). Sri J. Nagarjuna, Protection Watcher. The Surprise Check Proceedings typed by 2nd mediator Sri G. Kishore Kumar on dictation of 1st mediator Sri M. Hemanth from 10.15am on 29-01-2021 to 10.00 pm on 29-01-2021.

Charge-1:

That the Government Servant Sri S.Babu, Formerly worked as Forest Section Officer in Mydukur Check Post, Onipenta Forest Range, Mydukur Mandal, YSR Kadapa District, is held responsible for the non-availability of 12 red sander logs weighing about 186 KGs in 01 OR case and he retired on 31.03.2020.

Basis of the Charge:

This is proved by the following evidence:

(i) During the Surprise Check Sri Modem Hemanth, Assistant Executive Engineer and Sri Gogulamudi Kishore Kumar, Assistant Technical Officer both working in Water Resources Department, Irrigation Circle, Kadapa acted asmediators during the surprise check and they witnessed the contents of the surprise check proceedings, Dt. 29.01.2021 drafted in the Office of the Forest Range Officer, Onipenta Forest Range, Mydukur Mandal, YSR Kadapa District and also witnessed that S.Babu (Retired), Formerly worked as Forest Section officer is held responsible for the non-availability of 12 red sander logs weighing about 186 KGs in 01 OR case etc., facts.He retired on 31.05.2019.

(ii) Sri Chintala Dinesh Kumar Reddy, Forest Range Officer,Sri Afghani Azmathulla Khan, Deputy Range Officer, Kum.GunturuVignatha, Junior Assistant,Sri GundrajuHarinatha Raju, Forest Beat Officer, Neelapuram Beat, Duvvur Mandal,Sri ChagamareddiBala Linga Reddy, Forest Beat Officer, Maddivaripalli Beat, Sri PalakkagariMallesh, Data Entry Operator on Out Sourcing basis, O/o the Forest Range Officer, Sri Gourra Suresh, Driver on Out Sourcing Basis, O/o the Forest Range Officer, Sri Mandla ChinnaJambulaiah, Protection Watcher, O/o the FRO, Sri Jerri Nagarjuna, Protection Watcher, O/o the FRO,all are present while on the day of Surprise Check i.e., on 29.01.2021 and witnessed that S.Babu (Retired), formerly worked as Forest Section officer is held responsible for the non-availability of 12 red sander logs weighing about 186 KGs in 01 OR case etc., facts.

(iii) Surprise check proceedings of the O/o the Forest Range officer, Onipenta, Dt. 29.01.2021, It reveals the details of events that happened on the day of the Surprise Check, seizure of documents, registers, non-maintenance of records, examination of witnesses andalso they witnessed that S.Babu(Retired), Formerly worked as Forest Section officer is held responsible for the non-availability of 12 red sander logs weighing about 186 KGs in 01 OR case during the surprise check.

(iv) Letter of the SO-1 Ch.Dinesh Kumar Reddy, Forest Range officer, Onipenta vide RC No.22/2018 Dt. 10.06.2019 sent to the Divisional Forest Officer, Wild Life Division, Proddatur informing that they have to

transport all red sandal logs both dressed and undressed from Onipenta range and Divisional Forest office compound, Proddatur to Central Red Sanders, Tirupati still as on 01.06.2019 about 39.4588 MTs was pending to transport RS Logs aboutOnipenta Range of various custodians where the material was not available in Onipenta Range and further it reveals about the SO-12 Formerly worked as Forest Section officer is held responsible for the non-availability of 12 red sander logs weighing about 186 KGs in 01 OR case.

(v) Letter of the SO-1 Ch. Dinesh Kumar Reddy, Forest Range officer, Onipenta vide RC No.22/2018 Dt. 27.06.2019 sent to the Divisional Forest Officer, Wild Life Division, Proddatur reporting the details of RS Cases, Number of logs with their weight and responsible custodians. it reveals about the SO12 Formerly worked as a Forest Section officer is held responsible for the non-availability of 12 red sander logs weighing about 186 KGs in 01 OR case.

(vi) Form–5 Register, this register is maintained for all the registered and undetected offences and Red Sander logs. It also reveals thenon-availability of 12 red sander logs weighing about 186 KGs in 01 OR case.

Hence, the allegation is substantiated.

Thus, the Government Servant Sri S. Babu, by the above said acts contravened Rules 3(1) & 3(2) of APCS (conduct) rules, but as the Government Servant retired from services, rules 9 (2) (b) (ii) of AP Revised Pension Rules 1980 are applicable.

That the Government Servant Sri S.Babu, Formerly worked as Forest Section Officer in Mydukur Check Post, Onipenta Forest Range, Mydukur Mandal, YSR Kadapa District, by his above-mentioned acts exhibited a lack of integrity, slack supervision, devotion to duty, and conduct of unbecoming of a Government Servant and brought down the prestige of the Government and thereby contravened Rules 9 (2) (b) (ii) of AP Revised Pension Rules, 1980.As no departmental action can be taken against him as he retired from service more than four years ago, it is recommended to recover under AP Revenue Recovery Act, 1864 (cost of red sanders of 12 logs weighing 186 kgs in 01 OR case) from the Government Servant Sri S.Babu.

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G.ANANTHA RAMU
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

//FORWARDED ::BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE – III

LIST OF WITNESSES BY WHOM THE ARTICLE OF CHARGE FRAMED AGAINST SRI S. BABU, FOREST SECTION OFFICER, ONIPENTA FOREST RANGE, MYDUKUR MANDAL, YSR KADAPA DISTRICT ARE PROPOSED TO BE SUSTAINED.

LW-1: Sri Modem Hemanth, 34 Years, S/o M.Venkata Ramana, Assistant Executive Engineer, Water Resources Department, Irrigation Circle, Kadapa, N/o Pasalavandlapalli Village, Kalikiri Mandal, Chittoor District, R/o D.No.40/38-1, Muttarasupalli, Kadapa Town, YSR Kadapa District, Cell No.7032122233 (Mediator-1).

LW-2: Sri Gogulamudi Kishore Kumar, 38 Years, S/o G.Prakasam, Assistant Technical Officer, Water Resources Department, Irrigation Circle, Kadapa, R/o D.No.16/855, Opposite Nirmala Convent, Masapeta, Kadapa City, YSR Kadapa District, Cell No.9866443392 (Mediator-2).

LW-3: Sri P.Kanjakshan, DSP, ACB, Kadapa
LW-4: Sri S.Ramanjaneyulu, Inspector of Police, ACB, Kadapa.
LW-5: Sri T.Reddappa, Inspector of Police, ACB, Kadapa.
LW-6: Sri P.Sreenivasa Reddy, Inspector of Police, ACB, Kadapa.

If any witness is found to be relevant, he/she will be produced during the time of enquiry.

G.ANANTHA RAMU
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

//FORWARDED ::BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE - IV

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BY WHICH THE ARTICLE OF CHARGE FRAMED AGAINST SRI S. BABU, FOREST SECTION OFFICER, ONIPENTA FOREST RANGE, MYDUKUR MANDAL, YSR KADAPA DISTRICT ARE PROPOSED TO BE SUSTAINED.

1) Surprise check proceedings, Dt. 29.01.2021 drafted in the office of the Forest Range officer, Onipenta Forest Range, Mydukur Mandal, Kadapa District.

It proves the details of events that happened on the day of the Surprise Check seizure of documents, registers, non-maintenance of records, examination of witnesses and finding other deviations etc.

2) Staff Attendance Register:

This Register has been maintained from 01.09.2020 to date i.e., on 29.01.2021. The names of (1) Sri Ch.Dinesh Kumar Reddy, FRO, (2) Kum.G.Vignatha, Jr. Asst., and (3) Smt. Y.Parvathi, OS (OD basis to Social Forestry, Kadapa) were entered in the register. On verification of the said register, it is found that, Sri Ch.Dinesh Kumar Reddy, Forest Range Officer, Onipenta has put his initial as a mark of attendance up to 28.09.2020 only. But not found from 29.09.2020, for October2020, November 2020, December 2020 and January 2021 up to 29.01.2021 whereas Kum.G.Vignatha, Junior Assistant signed from 01.09.2020 to 28.01.2021. On asking by the DSP, Sri Ch.Dinesh Kumar Reddy, FRO, stated that he didn't put his initials in the Attendance Register as usual. The said register was seized by the DSP, ACB, Kadapa duly attested by the DSP and the mediators.

3) Protection Watchers Attendance Register:

This Register is being maintained from 01.07.2020 to date i.e., on 29.01.2021. The names of 2 Protection Watchers (1) Sri Y.Sudhakar and (2) N.Sathish Kumar Reddy are entered from the months of July 2020 to September 2020. The name of V.Venkata Ramana, Protection Watcher has been entered in October2020 in place of Y.Sudhakar, Protection Watcher. The name of M.ChinnaJambulaiah, Protection Watcher has been entered in November 2020 and December 2020 in place of V.Venkata Ramana, Protection Watcher. In all the pages the FBOs concerned are certifying that the above persons are temporarily working as Protection Watchers at Forest Check Post, Onipenta of M.V. Palli Beat, countersigned by the DRO. But in the month of January 2021, the attendance register is not maintained. On asking, by the DSP, Sri Ch.Dinesh Kumar Reddy, FRO stated that Sri A.Azmathulla Khan, DRO and Sri C.R.B. Linga Reddy, FBO of M.V. Palli Beat failed to maintain the registers for the month of January 2021. Further, the FRO stated that he didn't check the Check Post Attendance Register. The said register was seized by the DSP, ACB, Kadapa duly attested by the DSP and the mediators.

4) Striking Force Attendance Register:

This Register is being maintained from 01.04.2020 to date i.e., on 29.01.2021. The names of 5 protection watchers i.e., (1) K.Samuel, (2) K.Subbarayudu, (3) G.Aravind, (4) N.Vinod, (5) P.Ashok and one Driver i.e., (1) K.C.Obulesu are entered in the said register. All the pages were signed by the DRO. But in the month of January 2021, the

attendance register is not maintained. On asking by the DSP, Sri Ch.Dinesh Kumar Reddy, FRO stated that Sri A.Azmathulla Khan, DRO failed to maintain the register for the month of January 2021. Further, the FRO stated that he didn't check the Striking Force Attendance Register. The said register was seized by the DSP, ACB, Kadapa duly attested by the DSP and we the mediators.

5) Offence Register (OR) – 2 Registers:

The register was maintained from 09.10.2015. On verification, this register is containing from OR No.59/2015-2016, Dt.09.10.2015 to OR No.107/2015-2016, Dt. 28.03.2016 from Pages Nos.1 to 25. OR No.1/2016-2017, Dt.06.04.2016 to OR No.68/2016-2017, Dt. 24.03.2017 from Pages Nos.29 to 70. OR No.1/2017-2018, Dt.01.04.2017 to OR No.120/2017-2018, Dt. 19.03.2018 from Pages Nos.73 to 136. OR No.1/2018-2019, Dt.04.04.2018 to OR No.83/2018-2019, Dt. 24.03.2019 from Page Nos.139 to 185. OR No.1/2019-2020, Dt.02.04.2019 to OR No.111/2019-2020, Dt. 26.03.2020 from Page Nos.188 to 251.

Another register is being maintained from 01.04.2020. On verification, this register is containing from OR No.01/2020-2021, Dt. 24.04.2020 to OR No.35/2020-2021, Dt. 24.12.2020 from Pages Nos.1 to 18. Each page contains the details of 2 offences having entered the date, place and time of the offence and Report, Names of the Complainant, Accused, Arrest details etc., duly signed by the FRO, Onipenta, YSR Kadapa District on each OR No.

Further, we found 2 bunch papers in the register (2020-2021). On verification, the said 2 bunches are the (1) Form – "A" Preliminary Offence Report (POR) vide Book No.41, Report No.45 submitted P.ManiSucharitha, Forest Beat Officer, Gangayapalli Beat on 03.01.2021 against the accused S.Farooq, S/o Nayab Rasool, Mydukur (V) & (M), YSR Kadapa District and (2) Form – "A" Preliminary Offence Report (POR) vide Book No.24, Report No.15 submitted Sri C.R.B Linga Reddy, Forest Beat Officer, M.V.Palle Beat on 04.01.2021 against the accused V.Narayana Swamy, S/o Venkateshu, 52 Years, Mittamanupalli (V), Mydukur (M), YSR Kadapa District.

However, the above 2 Preliminary Offence Reports have not been entered in the Offence Register 2020-2021 by issuing OR numbers.

Kum.G.Vignatha, Junior Assistant failed to enter the 2 numbers of PORs in the OR Register. On asking, the FRO stated that the Junior Assistant failed to enter the same in the OR register due to work pressure. Every month Junior Asst. will produce the updated OR register for my verification. For this reason, I didn't see the OR register recently.

Among 37 reported offences for the year 2020-2021, 36 offences were compounded and a single case vides OR No.10/2020-2021 (Red Sanders case) was registered on 08.07.2020against A1 BukkeMallikarjuna Naik by Sri A.Sreehari, FBO, M.R. Palli beat, the accused was arrested and sent for remand. The remaining 3 accused i.e., A2 to A4 were surrendered before the Hon'ble Court due to pressure from the Forest officials as per the version of the Forest Range Officer.

The DSP got the Photostat copies of the first and last pages with the certificate and register covering pages of the Offence Register for the year 2020-2021 containing 4 sheets that have been seized duly attested by the DSP and we the mediators.

6) UDOR (Undetected Offence Register) (F-Form):

The register is maintained for the year. Entries up to the year 2019-2020 are only entered. No details for the current year 2020-2021 are entered.

The DSP got the Photostat copies of 5 sheets including the register covering page duly attested by the DSP and we the mediators.

7) Form – 5 Register:

This register is maintained for all the registered and undetected offences vehicles and Red Sanders logs. The Red Sanders logs quantity of 33.5508 Metric tons as per Form-5 is not on the ground. On asking the FRO stated that the said 33.5508 metric tons of Red Sanders logs are not found on the ground in the premises of Onipenta Forest Range. On asking about the above shortages, the FRO, Onipenta has stated as follows.

He took charge of Onipenta Range on 09.10.2017. After being charged by him, he verified all the records and stock positions of the various items at the end of October 2017. He had a suspicion about the stock of red sander logs, which were supposed to be present in the range complex, and started a thorough enquiry.

On 31.03.2018, he submitted an initial report to the DFO, Proddatur vide Rc.No.22/2018, Dt.31.03.2018 stating that some of the custodians i.e., FBOs have not accounted properly for the seized Red sander logs, even after serving notices to them. The details have been submitted to the DFO, Proddatur to proceed further and to findout the facts.

Later, on verification of Case records, Offence records, TCR's FORM- 9A & 9B (Red sander material present inside and outside depot) and FORM- 5 (Receipts and issue of Timber and other produce including Red Sander logs & Vehicles involved in offence about the Depot) it was noticed that a quantity of 116.797 MT's of red sander wood logs had to be present in the range complex as per FORM-5. On verification ofthe logs, which were present in the Onipenta range complex they noticed that all the red sander logs were not present in the lot form and not in the case ofthe wise lot, which made it very difficult for them to find the casewise logs then immediately he issued notices to all concern red sander custodians vide RC.No.22/2018 Dt.02.01.2018, 05.01.2018, 11.08.2018, about the Onipenta range, who are working presently and formerly worked in Onipenta Range through connected range officers working in the Proddatur division. Some of the staff approached to Forest Range officer, Onipenta Range i.e., him and showed the red sander produce, which was present in their custody to the concernedOnipenta Range staff. They verified the logs concerning the seizure list, which was present in the case records then they transported those logs with valid permit invoices and proper escort and in return escort persons handed over the produce (property) to the depot authority and the escort party submitted permits, invoice acknowledgement copies to the Range office.

Further, he submitted that some of the staff had submitted some documented proof supporting them that they were not the custodians of the particular cases, which was mentioned in the notice and after satisfying him he changed the custodian's name. After that, he transported the rest of the red sander logs from Onipenta Range to Tirupathigodown. Further on verification of the FORM- 9A & 9B (Red sander material present inside and outside depot) and FORM-5 (Receipts and issue of Timber and other produce including Red Sander logs & Vehicles involved in the offence about the Depot) as on 24.06.2019, it was noticed that 49,644 KGs of red sander logs had to be present in the Range, but they were not found on the ground in the Onipenta Range complex.

Further, he submitted that some of the red sander cases were not identified and none of the custodians had come forward to claim the produce (RS logs) as per the instructions of the DFO(WL) Proddatur Division in the review meeting and received instruction through RC.No.1311/2018-P1 Dt.15.10.2018 they transported the red sanders logs from Onipenta to the central red sander depot, Tirupati by duly conducting Panchanama by the Onipenta Range staff by re-measuring, weighing and re-numbering the entire logs and prepared proper invoice and valid FORM-1 transit vide permits No. 245875 Dt.15.10.2018 & 245877 Dt.14.12.2018 with a quantity of 771 No of Logs 16.09320 MTs.Thus it was identified that 49,644 kgs of red sander logs were not found on the ground, but we're reflecting on the paper.

Further, he submitted that the Onipenta Range office vide RC.No. 22/2018 Dt.22.06.2019 to the Forest Range officer Proddatur Range with a request to verify the produce pertains to Onipenta in OR.No's 99/07-08, 19/08-09 & 117/08-09 where the custodians were and to furnish the factual status report whether that the material has been received by the Forest Range officer, Proddatur Range which was kept at division office compound or not and if received then the red sander produce was transported to central red sander depot or not. Then FRO, Proddatur has furnished the information regarding the above three OR cases in vide Rc.No.91/2007 Dt. 25.06.2019, the productsof the Onipenta Range cases said above three OR cases have not been received by the Forest Range officer, Proddatur Range where the material should be at DFO's Office Complex, Proddatur.

Thus, it was identified that 49,644 KGs of red sander logs were not found on the ground, but we're reflecting on the paper.

8) Letter Rc.No.584/2021/M1, Dt.01.04.2021 of Conservator of Forests, Kurnool Circle, Kurnool:

It reveals details of service particulars and Job Charts of Suspect Officers.

9) Rc.No.60/2021-P3, Dt. 27.09.2021 of Divisional Forest Officer, Proddatur (Wild Life), Division. It reveals that the seizure of RS Logs and their disposal registered cases with action taken, the responsibility of the officials for the missing RS Logs, the responsibility of the DFO in missing RS Logs, details of the documents related to the seizure of RS Logs, maintenance and disposal of RS Logs, seizure of vehicles and their disposal, missing vehicles and unauthorized vehicles and responsible persons, tenders issued to the forest officials, etc., facts.

10) RC.No. ACB letter/2023/ONT Range, Dt. 19.01.2023 of the FRO, Onipeta, received on 15.02.2023 by messenger. It reveals the duties

and responsibilities of Sri Palakkagari Mallesh, DEO, Outsourcing (SO-6), Sri Gurra Suresh, Driving, Outsourcing (SO-7). Further, it reveals that Sri AfjaniAzmathulla Khan, Deputy Range Officer, Onipenta Forest Range office expired on 14.09.2022 and also supplied anattested copy of his death certificate

If any document is found to be relevant will be produced during the enquiry.

G.ANANTHA RAMU
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

//FORWARDED ::BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER